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CENTRAL FAX CENTER****JUL 31 2008****Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Docking buffer to be attached to ramps, especially loading ramps and loading bridges, with elastic damping element (3) between ~~two~~ first and second U-shaped parts (1;2) made of hard, shock-resistant material the limbs of which (4;5 and 6;7) are located next to one another and can be displaced in relation to one another, wherein the limbs (4;5) of the first U-shaped part (2) are convergent around an angle (α) deviating from 90° to a first base plate (9) and the limb (6;7) of the second U-shaped part (1) are convergent around an angle (α β) deviating from 90° to a second base plate (8), whereby the opening widths between the ends of the limbs (4;5) and (6;7) and the sizes of the angles (α ; β) are selected so that the limbs

(4;5) of the first U-shaped part enclose the limbs (6;7) of the second U-shaped part.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): Docking buffer in accordance with claim 1, wherein the size of the angle (α ; β) is selected, depending on the lengths of limbs (4;5;6;7), so that in cases of unilateral impact of the first U-shaped part (2) its limbs (4;5) cannot spatially avoid the enclosing of the limbs (6;7) of the second U-shaped part.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): Docking buffer in accordance with claim 1, ~~comprising~~ wherein the limbs (6;7) ~~being~~ are welded to a the second base plate (8) and form the second U-shaped part (1).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): Docking buffer in accordance with claim 1, wherein the docking buffer is attached to a ramp (12) with the second base plate (8) by means of a mechanically detachable connection (11).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): Docking buffer in accordance with claim 1, comprising a supporting device, ~~preferably punched sheet metal or grid,~~ being attached on the a bottom end of the second U-shaped part (1).